

**OPERATING PLAN
BUREAU OF AIR QUALITY CONTROL
FY06**

GOAL 1: Undertake special initiatives that will reduce emissions of ozone precursors, particulate matter, and air toxics.

Objective 1: Working with the Mayor's Office, take a leadership role in reducing diesel emissions in the Houston, Galveston and Brazoria (HGB) region.

Action Item 1: Ensure awareness in all sectors of the contribution diesel emissions make to ozone, particulates, and toxics.

Action Item 2: Develop a plan to reduce diesel emissions in the HGB by all key sectors, with the City leading by example.

Action Item 3: Advocate for and participate in opportunities to use Texas Emission Reduction Program (TERP) funding to reduce diesel emissions.

Objective 2: Address the issue of particulates in the Houston area, in light of anticipated changes in the standard and the contribution of fine particulates to health problems.

Action Item 1: Define particulate emission levels in the region and identify the major sources.

Action Item 2: Develop a plan to reduce particulates in the Houston area.

Objective 3: Evaluate and highlight the impact of industrial upsets on the region's air quality.

Action Item 1: Analyze data pertaining to upsets over the past three years to identify trends.

Action Item 2: Analyze enforcement and other remedial actions regarding upsets to evaluate effectiveness.

Objective 4: Develop a program to address toxic hot spots in Houston.

Action Item 1: Analyze data to prioritize focus areas based upon volume of toxics and potential health effects.

Objective 5: Develop a list of additional special initiatives for BAQC to undertake.

Action Item 1: Analyze data from a variety of sources, including air monitors, health effects research, and public filings, to identify project opportunities for BAQC.

Action Item 2: Develop a multi-jurisdictional team with other agencies to identify and address regional problems.

Action Item 3: Develop protocols for surveillance and inspections that will lead to the identification of the most significant sources of emissions within inspected facilities.

GOAL 2: Enhance our community assistance program.

Objective 1: Improve complaint process so that it is more responsive to citizens.

Action Item 1: Participate in ongoing dialog with existing community groups to proactively prioritize and address problem spots in cooperation with citizens and affected industries.

Action Item 2: Work with Harris County Pollution Control to improve the handling of citizen complaints.

Objective 2: Work with the community to develop a sustainable partnership for clean air initiatives, including involvement in monitoring and advocacy activities.

Action Item 1: Identify and cultivate community partners, improving coordination of activities, prioritizing initiatives and minimizing redundancy.

Action Item 2: Build capacity and interactive network for advocacy of constituents.

Objective 3: Become the preeminent source of information on air quality for citizens through web-based communications.

GOAL 3: Participate in and enhance the ambient-air monitoring network to ensure high quality data for emissions tracking and health risk evaluations, integrating data from external monitoring sources.

Objective 1: Obtain grant funding for, purchase, and deploy a mobile monitoring unit and an infrared camera.

Objective 2: Analyze data from monitoring sources to identify opportunities to intervene proactively in “hot spots,” especially concerning air toxics.

Objective 3: Maintain acceptable data return quality from current network.

Objective 4: Support other agencies’ and communities’ emissions monitoring and evaluation activities.

Objective 5: Evaluate advances in viable technology for more effective detection, monitoring and analytical tools.

Objective 6: Implement an effective field-sampling program for detecting biological agents.

GOAL 4: Support the City's enforcement of air quality regulations through all available means.

Objective 1: Review permitting applications affecting our region and intervene when appropriate.

Action Item 1: Develop protocols for systematic review and response to strengthen permit enforceability.

Action Item 2: Support the City Attorney in interventions in major permitting actions, which may adversely affect regional air quality.

Objective 2: Develop a compliance process through which to resolve issues with sources of emissions that are not referred to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), District Attorney, County Attorney or City Attorney's office.

Objective 3: Participate in the development of enforcement cases that will be handled by TCEQ, the City Attorney, the County Attorney and/or the District Attorney.

Action Item 1: Participate in the development of criteria for selection of cases for enforcement.

Action Item 2: Participate in the penalty and corrective action development process for cases that the City refers to the TCEQ for enforcement.

Action Item 3: Provide support to the District Attorney, County Attorney, and City Attorney for their enforcement efforts.

Objective 4: Ensure collection of ordinance-required air registration fees from affected regulated entities.

Action Item 1: Automate the invoicing of fees to regulated entities.

Action Item 2: Develop and implement process for referring non-compliant entities for collection.

GOAL 5: Strengthen air quality regulations for ozone precursors, particulates, and air toxins.

Objective 1: Work with City Attorney's office to review City ordinances concerning air quality to ensure maximum effectiveness.

Objective 2: Participate in the 8-hour SIP development process with comments from inspection and investigation program results and data analysis specifically related to efficacy of emissions control strategies.

Objective 3: Provide input into the rules governing the permitting process to strengthen emissions reductions through that process.

Objective 4: Actively support efforts to strengthen regulations regarding air toxins, including a review of ESLs and identification of hot spots.

GOAL 6: Support initiatives of the Mayor's Office in the area of air quality improvement.

Objective 1: Provide technical support for efforts by the Mayor's Office to execute environmental commitment agreements with industrial sources.

Objective 2: Participate in the Mayor's Task Force on Health Effects of Air Pollutants and provide data and technical support to the Task Force.

Objective 3: Provide advice on proposed rules and legislation in support of the work of the Government Affairs office.

Objective 4: Participate in the identification, preparation, and implementation of grants to support air quality improvements throughout the City.

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